

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

REGENTS RELEASE \$2.1 MILLION IN EISENHOWER FUNDS

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The Ohio Board of Regents today approved the release of more than \$2.1 million in Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program funds to support thirty-one separate mathematics and science education improvement projects. The projects link eighteen of Ohio's colleges and universities and one non-profit educational organization with school systems across the state in an effort to improve mathematics and science education.

Specifically Eisenhower Program projects are designed to:

- provide sustained, intensive, high-quality professional development opportunities for practicing elementary and secondary school teachers so they can in turn provide challenging learning experiences in science and mathematics for their students, and
- address the special needs of school populations that historically have lacked access to equal educational opportunities in the area of science and mathematics.

The Eisenhower program is helping to make inquiry-based instruction the standard method for teaching mathematics and science in Ohio's schools, and to support Ohio's curriculum models for science and mathematics. The typical Eisenhower project in Ohio involves a summer program, and follow-up activities during the ensuing academic year. Projects generally emphasize a hands-on, inquiry-based, problem-solving approach to teaching and learning science and mathematics. Projects bring teachers in contact with the latest advances in the field, and with fresh ideas for classroom activities.

The thirty-one projects funded today will provide an opportunity for some 1,400 teachers across the state to get back into the college classroom, and will bring the expertise of Ohio's college faculty into the schools. Of the projects funded for this year, twelve will focus specifically on science improvement, ten will focus specifically on mathematics improvement, and nine will address both science and mathematics. The projects involve one non-profit organization, two community colleges, one technical college, six private colleges, and nine state-assisted universities, including four regional campuses.

According to Dr. Russell Utgard, who assists the Board of Regents in administering the program, this year's competition for Eisenhower funds drew 58 proposals from 28 colleges and universities and four non-profit organizations. Requests for funds totaled over \$4.1 million. A 21-member review panel of experts representing all levels of science and mathematics education rated and ranked the proposals, and made funding recommendations to the Board.

The Eisenhower program annually distributes federal funds to all 50 states to support activities that will strengthen science and mathematics education. Each state's share is based on the number of school children in the state.

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NOTE: A list of funded projects and project contacts (a PDF document suitable for viewing with Adobe Acrobat Reader) is available. Abstracts of specific projects will be faxed on request. For more information, contact Dr. Russell Utgard at rutgard@regents.state.oh.us or 614/752-9541.